

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please amend the paragraph at lines 13-14 on page 5 as follows:

Fig. 4A is a schematic diagram illustrating the effect of positive field curvature from a refractive lens;

Fig. 4B is a schematic diagram illustrating the effect of negative field curvature from a refractive lens;

2. Please amend the first paragraph of the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION beginning on page 2, line 26 and continuing to page 3 as follows:

Embodiments of the invention are directed to an optical arrangement and method for receiving a light beam having a plurality of spectral bands and directing subsets of the spectral bands along optical paths to respective optical elements. The light beam is received at an input port. The optical elements which route the spectral bands are configured as a substantially planar array. A dispersive element is configured to ~~diffract~~ angularly spread the light beam, after it has been collimated, into a plurality of angularly separated beams that correspond to the plurality of spectral bands. A first focusing element is disposed with respect to the dispersive element and with respect to the array of optical elements such that ~~dispersion in the focal distance of the first focusing element for different angularly separated beams compensates for field curvature aberration caused by the first focusing element~~ variation of focal length with wavelength of the separated beams is compensated by the field curvature of the optical system, and the final image surface is flattened. Different embodiments are adapted for positive and negative field curvature aberrations.